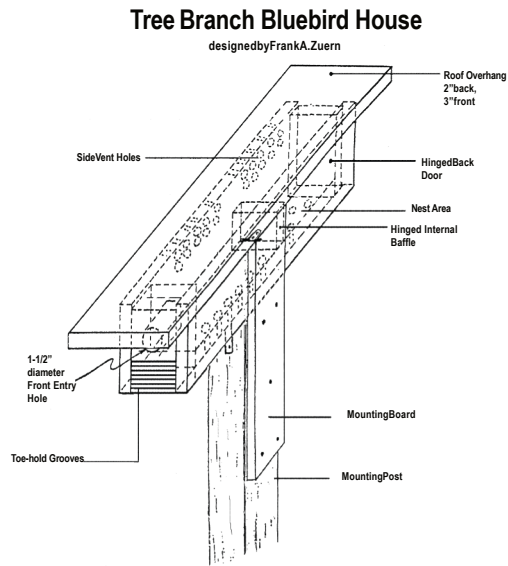


9. Use the TBBH nest box:

If you have bluebirds, keep nestlings safe from predators and heat stress by using the Tree Branch Bluebird House. Go to www.savingbirds.org for plans.



10. About feeding:

Make your own nectar by using 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. (Bring solution to full boil; then only offer small amounts. Artificial nectars ferment quickly. Do not add anything to nectar, including food colorings.) Do NOT offer commercial hummer food, which often contains chemical preservatives and/or coloring. Also, do NOT offer jams or jellies to orioles. Yes, the birds love it, but it is not good for them. Keep seed feeders well cleaned and keep seeds fresh. Place feeders near shrubs to provide shelter from avian predators.



Bobolink

"Study after study has shown that habitat loss and degradation are the primary threats to healthy bird populations. Nothing else comes as close. That's why I am such a strong supporter of Saving Birds Thru Habitat and its programs that teach so many people how to improve habitat for birds." – Dr. Gregory Butcher, Director, Bird Conservation, National Audubon Society.



Butterfly Weed

Provided by Saving Birds Thru Habitat
5020 North Putnam Rd. • P.O. Box 288
Omena, Michigan 49674-0288
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Website: www.savingbirds.org

Habitat Hints

Photo by Diane Saunders



**SAVING BIRDS
THRU HABITAT**



Common Yellowthroat

1. Use Native Plants:

The most important thing you can do for your avian visitors is to incorporate as many native plantings in your yard as possible. Only native plants host the insect biomass required by migrating birds. Virtually ALL nesting songbirds

must have insects for their nestlings. Non-native plants do not host the abundance of insect life that natives do.

2. Prevent Window Crashes:

According to window kill expert Dr. Daniel Klem, hundreds of millions of birds die every year crashing into windows. Cover windows with netting to prevent strikes. Place plantings – trees and shrubs in particular – within three feet of a window or glass wall to protect attracted and perched birds. Decals or other adornments such as old CDs on a string can alert birds to the danger of windows; place them

on the outside surface to deter strikes at reflective panes.



3. Keep Cats Indoors!

Domestic and feral cats kill millions of birds annually. American Bird Conservancy, Audubon, and Saving Birds Thru Habitat are among the groups calling

for keeping kitty indoors – not only because it saves birds, but because it is also healthier for your cat.

4. Drink Bird-Friendly Coffee:

Coffee is one of the most highly traded commodities in the world. Much of it is grown in vast monocultural plantations that do not offer habitat for Neotropical migrants. We can help by choosing bird-friendly varieties, grown on traditional (shade) plantations that provide warblers, orioles, tanagers, and thrushes healthy places.



Chestnut-sided Warblers are sometimes referred to as "coffee birds" because they depend heavily on tropical shade coffee plantations during the winter.

5. Create a Thicket:

Dense plantings of cedars, service berries, dogwoods, viburnums and other native shrubs and brambles provide cover, food and nesting sites for many birds.



6. Provide a Water Feature:

You can meet a bird's need for water with something as simple as a small birdbath. The essential element is cleanliness; keep water fresh for your feathered visitors. Birds pass diseases through unclean feeding and watering places. Heating water in cold months is not recommended.

7. Save Dead Trees:



Eastern Screech Owl

Most owls, all woodpeckers, nuthatches, bluebirds, titmice, chickadees and many other birds depend on cavities in dead and dying trees for nesting. A few will accept nest boxes, but most will not. Standing dead timber that does not threaten life, limb or property is essential for cavity nesting species.

8. Make a Hummingbird Garden:

Columbine, cardinal flower, blazing star, spotted jewel-weed, and other native flowers attract and feed not only hummers, but also host butterflies.